A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, February 21. 1706.

'TWas a hard piece of Advice to give a Tradesman, which our last ended with, *viz.* TO BREAK; but I cannot forbear telling you, Gentlemen, it is upon the Maturest Consideration in the World, that I bring it up to this height, and lay it down as a Fundamental Maxim in the present State of Trade; the only Destruction of Trade in this Nation, is not *the Breaking* of our Tradesmen, but *their not Breaking*, viz. That when Men find in Trade, they cannot stand, but are Declining in Stock, the Capital sunk, their Credit sinking, and the Bottom Nought, yet they will struggle to the last Moment, and like the Drowning Man, that Tyr'd with Swimming, and quite spent, when he can hold up his Head no longer above Water, yet he swims even under Water, while he is, as it were, strangling, and in his last Pangs; they will run through all the Extremities, till at last Desperation seizes them, and then like a Hunted Stag, they stand at Bay with their Creditors, and do them all the Mischief they can; the Stag indeed, like a Generous Beast, when he finds the Speed fail, and the Mercileſs Hounds at his Heels, Bravely Faces them, and Dyes Resisting; but 'tis plain, that Courage is the last Effort of Fear; and would he Exert that Bravery, before he had spent his Strength in a Cowardly flight; there would be no such thing as Hunting him, *the Dogs would be useless*; Pardon, the Allusion, Gentlemen. Would Men in Trade, Treat with their Creditors early, *the Hounds*, the Commissioners I would say, would be useless, Sta-

Statutes would Dye of Course; *this Barbarous and Bloody Act*, for I can call it no other, of Inmmuring Men Alive, Starving Innocent People, and Torturing Families, would, to the Eternal Scandal of the Contrivers, be Damn'd, as it deserves, as a Practice not heard of, in any Nation in the World.

I cannot but say, I believe the Contrivers of that Law, aim'd at Exposing this Nation to the World: That we being formerly a People Famous for Generosity and Mercy, to the Miserable; that Abominated Cruelty, even to the worst Malefactors; that Upbraid the *Scots* with *their Boot* and *Thumkins*, and the *Dutch*, with the Cruelties of *Amboyna*, should shelter the Bloodiest Design, that ever Christian Nation Harbour'd under *the Cover of a Law*, for *Regulating Prisons*, and the passing this Law, without regard to the Destruction of so many Thousand Miserable Families, as must first and last Perish by it, is to me a farther Testimony, how little those People are Enclin'd to Compassion, who had then the Conduct of Publick Affairs.

There are some Acts of Parliament in *England*, *with what Design made, I am not to Examine*, which carry in them something so odd, that it shocks Mankind in the Execution; 'tis hard we should have any Laws in such a Nation as this, *that pretends to so much Justice*, that it should be Scandalous for any Man to make use of; and yet perhaps, I could give a great many Instances of this kind, and particularly, that we Call, *the Statute of Limitations*; how many Men are there in Town, who, if a Man takes the Advantage of that Statute, and Pleads it to a just Debt, freely call him a Rogue, a Villain, that deserves to be Insulted in the Streets, and *Can'd for a Rascal*; and yet this Law is made Sacred, by King, Lords, and Commons, in the several Acts, for Discovery of Frauds, in all Penal Laws, whether Pecuniary or Sanguinary; how Scandalous is the Title of an Informer, no Honest Man can bear it. And when for the Reward, some stoop to the Mean Employment, how do Gentlemen Contemn their Persons, Despise their Acquaintance, and care not to be seen in their Company, even those very Men, that have *in a manner*, sav'd the Nation, by Discoveries of Plots, Assassinations, and Conspiracies, against our Government and Kings? how do even those People, who acknowledge the Service done, yet slight the Person, and think them Men of Baseness and Dishonour, that when they have their Reward, are fit to be laid aside

In the Case of the Law, I am Discoursing of, it already begins to be Counted, the Test of a Man of Blood, and Barbarity; to put it in Execution, Entitles a Man to the Character of Inhumane, and in a few Years, it will of Course grow so Universally Condemn'd, that no Men of Honesty or Humanity will be seen to make use of it.

To talk of Humanity and Mercy, and Confine Men to Perpetual Imprisonment for Debt, and that Men who cannot pay too, as well as they that can, Men Ruin'd by known Disaster, as well as Men of Fraud; to put Men to Torture and Famine, and neither let them Work to Pay, nor to Live; to smother Men in Noysome Dungeons, and Crowd them with Murtherers and Thieves; to Condemn them to the Temporal Hell of a Gaol, and barr them up from all the helps of Art, Industry, and Time to Restore their Families, and pay: For Shame, let us no more Reproach the *Dutch*, Amboyna *is a Fool to this*, and though I thank God, I neither fear nor value all the Efforts of my Numerous Enemies this way, yet I would be of Mr. *Tutching*'s Mind in another Case, and cannot but Applaud his Experiment; I should Petition the Parliament to make it Felony, and that they would Remedy this Barbarous Mischief, by the *Coup de Grace*, of the Gallows; but I shall take more Freedom with this Matter hereafter.

I am now Addressing my self to the Tradesmen that yet stand upon their Feet, and tho' struggling with Difficulties in Trade, yet appear good Men; God knows how many thousand Families I am now talking to, that Live well, Ride in Coaches, and Enjoy the outside of Happiness, and no Man can say to them, *thou art the Man*. Well, Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, if you will ever hearken to Advice for your Good, let it be to this, *ſtop in time*, and be not Diſmay'd at Conſequences; let Laws and Cruelties of Creditors be what they will, *ſtop in time*, 'tis far eaſier to make up; and you will make much better Terms, when you can Pay 15 *s.* in the Pound, that 2*s.* 6*d.* Creditors are never Unkind, when a Man diſcovers his Condition early, ſhows them the Honeſt Man, and their loſs is but ſmall. If you would not be quite undone, venture to be *undone*, early; Time will recover you, Good Uſage will Cure you, but Running all to the laſt Extremity, Ruines both Debtor and Creditor.

MISCELLANEA.

IN my laſt, I ſhew'd the Neceſſity I was under, from the Violence of other Men's Malice, to juſtifie the Moderation of this Paper.

I do believe no Man, ought to ſtudy other Mens Infirmities, and to Expoſe all Mens Errors, is an Office no Man can deſire, for the ſake of it; I think the true end of Satyr, *is for Reformation*, and I freely Renounce all manner of Invidious Reproachings. I have conceal'd a Thouſand times more Follies, Crimes, Vices, and Ridiculous Actions, of even my worſt Enemies, than *I have Expos'd*, and in this, I value my ſelf upon *my Moderation*, *that* I Expoſe none, but what I think Incorrigible, and who firſt really Expoſe themſelves, ſeem paſt Shame, Advice or Correction; and with theſe I think my ſelf not ty'd up to Rules. ———

Now, tho' I reſolve never to make any Truce *with Vice*, *or with the Men of Vice*, yet while I have been Inviting all Men to Party-Peace, and to promote the Publick Tranquility; I have, to prompt the Exhortation, by my own Example, *Reſtrain'd my Pen*, in giving the Scandalous Hiſtories of thoſe People, whoſe Practice has been Notorious, in the Oppoſing the Good of their Native Country.

And firſt, *as to Hiſtory's of Fact*, I have Suppreſs'd the Hiſtory of above 27 ſeveral Elections in *England*, in which the Horrible Scenes of High Church Rage, would have been ſo Manifeſt, the particulars would have been ſo Scandalous, not to the Perſon s con cern'd only, but to the whole Party, that they who have but the leaſt Inclination to Peace, and Silence, cannot but Confeſs me Civil to them.

Secondly, as to Inſtances of the Inferiour Clergy and Magiſtrates, in the ſeveral Parts of *England*, and of their Prodigious Behaviour, of which I have Collected about ſix and twenty Hundred Examples, in which their Conduct, would ſuffer Indelible Scandal; I have Suppreſs'd the Opportunities, I have had of Expoſing them; have not only forborn the Publication, but have never ſo much as ſhown the Diſmal Particulars in Converſation; in hopes, Argument for Peace, Experience, or ſome turn of Affairs might open their Eyes, and Reproach ſhould not lye in the way of their Repentance.

I am Sorry, that to juſtifie the Truth of this, I am Oblig'd to break in upon this Method, and muſt Expoſe ſomebody to give them a Specimen, how eaſie it is to Expoſe the reſt; but ſince it muſt be ſo, I leave the World to judge of the Moderation I ſpeak of, in my hitherto forbearing, to relate the following Story.

From *Okehampton* in *Devonſhire*.

One *Quinte*, a Labouring and very Honeſt, Uſeful Man, was Servant to a certain Tradeſman in the Town, who had a Right in the Burrough to Vote for Burgeſſes at the laſt Election: This Tradeſman being known not

to be of the Side of Sir S—*L.* who ſtood Candidate for the Town, a Captain of the Army was found out, who came to the Town to raiſe Soldiers, Mr. *Tendall*, the Mayor of the Town, grants a Warrant to take up this *Quint*, and liſt him according to Act of Parliament; but the Act requiring 3 Juſtices of Peace ſhould ſign the Warrant, it was carried to a Neighbouring Juſtice to have his hand to it, who examining the Circumſtances refuſed to ſign; whereupon the Captain very honeſtly let the poor Man go.——But a little before the Election, it being found neceſſary to take up this Man, in order as is ſuppos'd to Influence his Maſter, he was taken up a ſecond time by Mr. *Tendall* the Mayor's Warrant; and no Juſtices being to be found, who would ſign ſuch an Illegal Warrant, rather than the Service of the Church ſhould be neglected, or that all poſſible Diligence ſhould not be uſed to be keep a Whig, *tho' a good Churchman too*, out of the Houſe two; of the Inferiour Clergy were found, who perſonating Juſtices of the Peace, Sign'd the Warrant, and by this High Church Forgery, the poor Man was hurried away into the Army, where he has been ever ſince, till he was a few days ago found out and delivered.

And that Mr. *Leſsley* may ſpare the trouble of enquiring for the Names of thoſe Gentlemen, and be put to hinder his more *uſeful* Labours in his *Rehearſal*, I ſave him that Trouble by telling him they were no body elſe but Mr. *Huſſey* Miniſter of *Okehampton* in *Devonſhire*, and Mr. *Roberts* his Neighbour; and if he pleaſes to make farther Enquiry into the Truth of Fact, he may come at it it two Days.

1ſt. By any Member of Parliament, who was at the Commitee of Election; where this Matter was brought more particularly to Light, and at large detected.

2dly. By the Iſſue of an Action at Law now depending againſt the two Parſons for the Fact, which I doubt will end both in their Damage and Diſgrace.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

KIng *Charles* II. his Lyme Water, rightly prepar'd for all Gentlemen who Drink Wine, being a dryer up of Superfluous Humours, a ſweetner of the Blood, a Reſtorer of Nature, and Procurer of loſt Appetite. It Cures the Dropſie, Aſthma, Ptyſick, Conſumption, Cold, Palſy, Stone in the Kidneys and Bladder It is infuſed with many choiſe Roots, Woods, and Seeds, fermented with Blue Currants, Rectifi'd with Mace, flavered with Violets, and Enrich'd with the fineſt trueſt Pearl, and Sold only at the Rainbow Coffee-Houſe by Fleet-bridge, at 5 *s.* the quart Bottle; Directions will be delivered with the Bottles.

Juſt publiſh'd,

A Geographical and Hiſtorical Account of the Principality of *Catalonia*, and Earldom of *Barcelona*. Containing the Deſcription of that Country and City, and of all other Places of Note, and its Principal Rivers, the Succeſſion of its Princes, and all Notable Revolutions from the firſt Ages, to this preſent time. *London*, Printed, and ſold by *John Nutt*, near *Stationers Hall*, 1705.

Books Printed for, and Sold by Jeffery Wale, *at the Angel in St.* Paul's Church-Yard.

MIſcellanea Curioſa, being a Collection of ſome of the Principle Phœnomena in Nature, accounted for by the greateſt Philoſophers. An Eſſay at the Mechaniſm of the Macrocoſm, or the Effects upon their Cauſes in a New Hypotheſis, accommodated to our Modern and Experimental Philoſophy, by *C. Pearſhall*, M. D. Copernicans of all ſorts, Convicted by the Honourable *Edw. Howard* Apur. Flacq. Tab. Sinum Tangentium & Secantium & Logarithmi, ſin. Tangent, & Numerorum ab unitate ad 10000. Tacqueti, Elementa Geometriæ, planæ & ſolidæ Arithmeticæ Theoria & praxis Hugenii opuſcula Poſthuma quæ continent. Dioptricam commentarios de vitris figurandis. Principes de Phyſique par Nicholas Hartſoeker.

Lately publiſh'd,

A Hymn to Peace; Occaſion'd by the two Houſes joyning in one Addreſs to the Queen. By the Author of the True-Born *Engliſh*-Man. Sold by *John Nutt*, near *Stationers Hall*, 1706.